

## THE RICHMOND DISPATCH.

BY THE DISPATCH COMPANY.

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UP-TOWN OFFICE, BROAD-STREET PHARMACY, 513 EAST BROAD STREET.

MANCHESTER OFFICE, 1203 HULL STREET.

FRIDAY,.....OCTOBER 14, 1898.

Friends of the Dispatch would do us a favor by informing us promptly of any failure on the part of newsdealers, or newsboys on railroad trains, to meet the public demand for copies of this paper. Information is also desired by us of the delinquency of any carrier of ours in Richmond, Manchester, or elsewhere.

Mail subscribers are likewise invited to report to us whenever their papers come late or irregularly.

THE NEGRO POSTMASTER.

The McKinley-Hanna administration has deliberately incensed and insulted the people of Virginia by appointing a negro postmaster at Juntas, in Franklin county.

At small post-offices like that, the postmaster is thrown into constant communication with the patrons of the office. Usually he has no assistants or clerks, and when, for instance, a lady calls for her letters, or comes in to buy stamps, or to make enquiries, she must do business with the postmaster himself. And in this case that officer is a negro!

That the community in question feels outraged by this appointment is natural. It could not be otherwise in Virginia, and the officials at Washington well knew it would be so when they foisted this black man upon the patrons of the Junta office. It is a mean-spirited, contemptible act, for which the appointing power, and all who boosted Tryman for this position, must be held responsible.

Juntas is not a presidential office, but the man who signed Tryman's commission is one of the assistants of the Postmaster-General, and as such is the agent of the Postmaster-General and of the President. Hitherto the administration has been careful not to offend public sentiment in Virginia in this respect, though in other Southern States time and again it has appointed negroes as postmasters, marshals, etc.

It is not quite clear to us why this new departure has been made in Virginia. At the first blush it would appear that it would be impossible for the Republican party to profit by raising the race issue in this State; but there is another view that may be fairly taken. The negro voters of Virginia have, of late, shown remarkable independence of their old leaders. In several of our congressional districts they have set up candidates of their own and are giving "the regulars" much trouble. Now it may be that the Washington administration is resolved to throw a tub to this troublesome black whale. Or, it may be that Postmaster Tryman's appointment is the forerunner of numerous other such appointments that are to come. In either event, there can be few white Virginians who contributed to the election of McKinley, even in the slightest degree, but who will be ashamed of their course.

We cannot have anything to do with Republicanism without being injured.

If the Hanna crowd had full swing here they would dot the State with negro postmasters, marshals, magistrates, constables, policemen, and teachers, and would try to make us concede that a negro is as good as a white man. But, thank Heaven, they have not that power; nor will they ever have it—unless white Virginians say and mine the Democratic party, and by weakening our defenses make way for our enemies to seize and despoil our strongholds.

THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.

Despite diplomatic assurances to the contrary, rumors of "hitches" in the peace negotiations at Paris continue to reach us. On the whole, we rather incline to believe that these rumors are nearer the truth than the "diplomatic assurances."

None the less, however, we see no occasion for the American mind to be disquieted by them.

As we have said before, hitches in the negotiations were to have been expected from the first. It would have been unreasonable to suppose that Spain would come to our terms per saltum. It is natural that she should seek to save all she can and reach peace by the path involving the least humiliation to her.

From her standpoint, that is simply the patriotic course. In fact, it would be the patriotic course from the standpoint of any other nation in her position. No fair-minded man will think less of her for trying to preserve her dignity by not be-

ing in too big a hurry to yield every point.

But when she shall have done her best in the matter, she will yield. And for this reason if for no other—she is in no condition to do otherwise. She is in no condition to kick effectively against the pricks. She has but the ghost of a navy left, her government is practically bankrupt, and her people are already taxed almost beyond the limit of endurance. Given this situation, and it becomes clear that attempt on her part to resume hostilities would be sheer madness.

No; there is no reason for disquiet as to the result of the negotiations unless it be, that we, taking advantage of having Spain completely at our mercy, shall insist on grabbing the Philippines, and thus enter upon a career of imperialism.

ROSEBERRY'S JINGOLISM.

Wednesday Lord Rosebery, the Liberal leader and former Premier, made a speech at Epsom, and in referring to the Fashoda dispute, was jingoistic to the last degree. He cast diplomatic language to the winds, took the position that Great Britain had been affronted by France, negatively charged the Salisbury government with having been too conciliatory, and virtually threw down the gauntlet to the French nation.

Considering, however, his record and training, and his present relations to the British Government, France is not likely to take his Lordship as seriously as he takes himself. His outburst was simply another illustration of the truth of the adage, "Like master, like man."

Rosebery was a scholar of Gladstone's, and inherited the premiership from the latter. In his Epsom speech, in so far as it dealt with the Fashoda question, his Lordship followed in the footsteps of his illustrious predecessor, and showed that he had been an appreciative pupil.

We have the highest regard for Mr. Gladstone's personal character, and recognize that in more respects, perhaps, than any other Briton of his day he measured up to the highest standard of statesmanship. But the story of his career compels us to recognize, also, that as to British foreign policy he was infinitely more aggressive when out of power than when in power. Had he been as aggressive in power as when out of power, there would have been no necessity for Kitchener's Anglo-Egyptian Nile expedition.

The Grand Old Man was great on formulating when out of the ministry measures for the maintenance of British prestige abroad, but when in the ministry he failed to make these measures active practical forces. In this difference between Gladstone seeking the premiership and Gladstone holding the premiership was his weakness. Great Britain's rivals understood that weakness and presumed upon it and profited by it. By the same token, knowing, as they did, Rosebery's tutelage and inheritance, they did not worry much over his foreign policy when he was Premier. They judged the man by the master.

So we repeat, that France will hardly take his Lordship as seriously in this matter as he takes himself. Consequently, she is not likely to allow his speech to provoke her to the extent of antagonizing too far Lord Salisbury, who, it must be evident to her, really means business. In short, Lord Rosebery's jingoism is not calculated to complicate the situation in the slightest.

TWO NOT OF A KIND.

Editors always receive advice very gratefully, but they cannot but be embarrassed when a fellow uses the language of their own articles to tell them how a question ought to be discussed. And sometimes they are compelled to be disgusted by men who rarely read papers telling them that such and such a subject (upon which many articles have already been printed) "should be brought to public attention."

How different the competent and welcome adviser. He is a diligent reader and understands and remembers what he reads. His suggestions are always valuable. They may not be used to-day or to-morrow, but in time they will be worked in in some suitable place.

For him there is always ready an easy chair in the editorial room, which he never speaks of as a "sanctum." He is sensible, too, in that he knows when to come and when to go. Never does he consume time by stating that he is "going to be very brief," or linger and linger after he has risen to go.

Long life to him. In comparison with some others, he shines out like the Koh-i-noor beside a potato.

HARD, INDEED.

The Philadelphia Times, in referring to the death of Major Wilkinson at the hands of the Pillagers, says that "it is hard for a man to have come through some of the fiercest battles of the civil war, to have escaped the Camps in Cuba and the typhoid at Camp Wikoff, to die in an Indian ambush."

Hard, indeed. But in great part this will be the story of thousands of our young men if the Republican policy of imperialism is carried out. If the humanitarianism of Hannibal obtains, thousands of our young men who have escaped the Mauters in Cuba and the typhoid in the Philippines at the hands of truculent Malays and negroes.

The Atlanta Constitution says that most of the returns of the late election in Georgia are in. The amendment to the Constitution of the State proposing that the judges and solicitors of the Superior courts shall be elected by the people has been adopted. Of eighty-three counties heard from on this question, fifty-nine voted in favor of the change and twenty-three against it. The net popular majority in those eighty-three counties is 17,482. Fifty counties have not yet sent in their returns. The table of returns received shows that the opposition to the amendment was most pronounced in the counties where the Populists are plentiful.

"The Russian press urges that the Fashoda dispute be settled by arbitration." So the Czar's peace idea is not without honor in its own country.

Quay gave expression to the idea of "shaking the plum-tree," but he by no means invented the art.

The Indian war is over, we presume, but there is still pow-wow-ful opposition, it is said.

The Paris strike is over, it is reported. It was not a ten-strike for the working-men.

The land of the famous parsons' case welcomes the famous parsons.

## GENERAL MILES'S FLIGHT.

It is said that General Miles was ignored or snubbed at the luncheon and reception given the President at the Omaha Exposition day before yesterday.

The General was in Omaha, but he was not invited to cut any figure in the ceremonies of the day. Of course, it may be possible that the Committee of Arrangements overlooked the presence of Miles and unintentionally omitted him from the place of prominence his rank entitled him to, but the circumstance is suspicious, in view of the well-known fact that the President sides with Alger rather than with Miles.

And that is a very serious matter, indeed, for Miles. It means that so long as McKinley continues in the presidency the General will often, if not always, have the cold shoulder turned to him. It also means that, even if Congress revives the grade of lieutenant-general of the army, it is not at all likely the President will nominate Miles to fill the position.

Thus we see that the war, instead of satisfying the cravings of Miles's ambition, has been highly injurious to him. So far as we know the story of the controversy between Miles and Alger, we are disposed to side with the General rather than with the politician; but we should like to have more information. So would the people generally.

The Alger investigating Committee, instead of examining witnesses who are well known to be ignorant of the matters as to which the public wish early information should have begun by calling Miles and Shafter before them. Alger stands towards the commission in the relation of an accused person, and we think it entitled to be heard last; but it is sheer nonsense to be examining officers of inferior rank before Miles and Shafter have been put upon the witness stand.

General Miles, though the senior officer of our army, is practically in disgrace, in so far as the petty persecutions of Alger and Corbin can disgrace him. He is considered about nothing of consequence, and Alger and Corbin have even gone so far as to issue orders in his name which he never saw until they appeared in print! Yet the commission goes on taking the depositions of other officers upon minor questions! However, the truth will out sooner or later. We may not hear it before the elections come off, but we shall hear it when Congress orders an investigation—which it will certainly do.

The country would like to know precisely what is the trouble between Alger and Miles, and who is to blame; also, to what degree each of these high and mighty functionaries is blameable for the blunders, extravagance, and hurtful favoritism that marked our brief and not too glorious war.

## GLADSTONE'S HOME.

Great changes have taken place in Hawarden Castle, the famous home of Gladstone, since the "grand old man" was called hence, and the splendid establishment will now come under a new regime. There is a sad story of family misunderstandings in this change and the still sadder picture of an aged widow who has resigned for years.

Mr. Gladstone only had a life interest in Hawarden Castle, and the property will now pass to the charge of Hon. Mrs. William Henry Gladstone, the widow of the famous statesman's eldest son. This son inherited the estate from his uncle, old Mrs. Gladstone's brother, Sir Stephen Glynn. And on Mr. William Henry Gladstone's death it was his boy, the now 12-year-old William Glynn Gladstone, who became the real owner of the place. Yet in spite of this the lady's mother was never permitted to make her home at Hawarden. She did not get on with her dead husband's brothers or sisters, and the Gladstone family appear to have regarded her as "persona non grata." The unpopular woman, whether justly or unjustly treated, submitted to this snubbing in silence so long as her distinguished father-in-law was alive.

For the noble old commoner she entertained the highest regard, and during his lifetime she had no say whatever in the management of what was virtually her son's estate. But since the "grand old man" has answered the inexorable summons she sees no reason for further submissiveness and will now assert herself. Old Mrs. Gladstone will no longer be mistress of Hawarden, and she must find another home. With her will go the hostile brothers and sisters, for it is hardly probable that the family affair will be patched up.

Old Mrs. Gladstone will probably spend the remainder of her days with her son, Herbert, in London, and will be cared for and nursed by her unmarried daughter, Helen. It is said that since her husband's death she has fallen into a complete state of dotage and does not even seem to realize that she has become a widow.

"All for love, and the world well lost," is possibly Howard Gould's sentiment, since he has just forfeited \$50,000 which would otherwise have come to him from his father's estate, by marrying Miss Kate Clemons, an actress, against the wishes and advice of the trustees of the estate, which action brings about the forfeiture above referred to, according to the will. He has about \$5,000,000 left, however, and he ought to be able to scuffle along on that.

The President at Omaha.

(New York Times.)

The President seems to have committed himself at Omaha, to Secretary Alger and all other delinquents who have appeared or may appear.

Of course no one is to dissent from the President's praise of the fighting qualities of the army, and of the perfection of organization and the administrative efficiency as well of the fighting qualities of the navy. But the gist of his speech is that the administration relies and appeals to the country upon its "war record." These are the sentences in which the President deprecates and strives to stifle criticism upon the mismanagement of the War Department.

"Who will embolden the government by sowing seeds of disaffection among the brave men who stand ready to serve and die if need be for their country? Who will darken the councils of the republic in this hour requiring the united wisdom of all? Shall we deny to ourselves what the rest of the world so freely and so justly accords to us? The men who endured in the short but decisive struggle its hardships, its privations, whether in the field or camp, on ship or on shore, will never tolerate impeachment, either direct or indirect, of those who won a peace whose great gain to civilization is yet unknown and unwritten."

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